

# EQUALITY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

## Equality Scheme Approval Committee Wednesday 28 November 2012

### PRESENT

Jane Morrice	Deputy Chief Commissioner (Chair)
Michael Wardlow	Chief Commissioner
Dermot Nesbitt	
Patricia Feeney	
Stella Burnside	
Peter Sheridan	

### IN ATTENDANCE

Eileen Lavery	Head of Advice and Compliance
Lisa King	Director Advice and Compliance
Patrice Hardy	Equality Develop. Manager (Public Sector)
Aidan Fitzpatrick	Equality Develop. Manager (Public Sector)
Elaine Preshaw	Note taker

### APOLOGIES

Stephen McIlveen  
Norman Trotter

### 1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the 28 September 2012 were **agreed** and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

### **3. EQUALITY SCHEMES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL**

#### **Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund**

This scheme was due for submission on 1 May 2012, was received by the Commission on 3 May 2012.

The Committee was advised that the National Heritage Memorial Fund equality scheme broadly follows the Equality Commission's model equality scheme. Following a number of minor amendments to the scheme it was re-submitted on 1 October 2012.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Scheme, as recommended.

#### **Coleraine Borough Council**

This scheme was presented for Commissioner's consideration. It was due to be submitted by 1 February 2012 and was submitted on 30 January 2012.

The Committee was advised that the Coleraine Borough Council equality scheme broadly follows the Equality Commission's model equality scheme. Following a number of minor amendments to the scheme it was re-submitted on 13 November 2012.

Commissioners noted the consultation timescales for this scheme, which included the Christmas period. There was confirmation of the recommendation in the Commission's guide to public authorities that addresses consultation practice over holiday periods.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Scheme, as recommended.

#### **Connswater Housing Association**

This scheme was due to be submitted by 1 August 2012 and was received on this date.

The Committee was advised that the Connswater Housing Association equality scheme follows the Commission's model equality

scheme. Following a number of minor amendments to the scheme it was re-submitted on 15 November 2012.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the scheme, as recommended.

### **Grove Housing Association**

This scheme was tabled for consideration. The scheme was due to be submitted by 1 August 2012 and was submitted on 2 August 2012.

The Committee was advised that the Grove Housing Association equality scheme broadly followed the Commission's model equality scheme.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Scheme, as recommended.

### **Flax Housing Association**

This scheme was due to be submitted by 1 August 2012 and was submitted on 31 July 2012.

The Committee was advised that the Flax Housing Association equality scheme broadly followed the Commission's model equality scheme. A number of minor amendments were made to the scheme and it was re-submitted on 14 November 2012.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Scheme, as recommended.

### **Fold Housing Association**

This scheme submission date was 1 August 2012 and was submitted on 31 July 2012.

The Committee was advised that the Fold Housing Association equality scheme broadly followed the Commission's model equality scheme. Following negotiations, a number of amendments were made to the scheme and it was re-submitted on 14 November 2012.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Scheme, as recommended.

## **Habinteg Housing Association**

This scheme was tabled for consideration. Habinteg Housing Association's scheme submission date was 1 August 2012 and was submitted on this date.

The Committee was advised that the Habinteg Housing Association equality scheme broadly followed the Commission's model equality scheme. Following a number of minor amendments to the scheme it was re-submitted on 2 November 2012.

A Commissioner identified the absence of a specific start and end date to the Action Plan attached to the Scheme. The Commission's assessment criteria for the authority's arrangements for assessing its compliance with the duties was discussed. The treatment of the commitment to develop an action plan in this section for previously approved schemes was confirmed. The Commission has the responsibility to keep under review the effectiveness of the duties. It can request a revised scheme at any time (Schedule 9 3.(1)(b)). Furthermore public authorities report annually on their progress and this would enable the Commission to review implementation of the scheme commitments before the requirement that the authority reviews its scheme within five years. The further commitments in the Timetable of Measures for actions that are time bound were also referenced.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the scheme, as recommended.

## **Open Door Housing Association**

This scheme was due to be submitted by 1 August 2012 and was received on 2 August 2012.

The Committee was advised that the Open Door Housing Association equality scheme broadly followed the Commission's model equality scheme and the scheme was recommended for approval.

The process for reviewing a scheme was discussed, given the Schedule 9 requirement that an authority shall do this within 5 years.

The Committee agreed to approve the scheme, as recommended.

### **Rural Housing Association**

This scheme was due to be submitted by 1 August 2012 and was submitted on this date.

The Committee was advised that this equality scheme broadly followed the Commission's model equality scheme. A number of minor amendments were made to the scheme and it was re-submitted on 14 November 2012.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Scheme, as recommended.

### **St Matthews Housing Association**

This scheme was due to be submitted by 1 August 2012 and was submitted on 3 August 2012.

The Committee was advised that the St Matthews Housing Association equality scheme broadly followed the Commission's model equality scheme. Following negotiations, a number of amendments were made to the scheme and it was re-submitted on 12 November 2012.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Scheme, as recommended.

### **Trinity Housing Association**

One Commissioner declared an interest and did not take part in discussions in respect of Trinity Housing Association.

This scheme was due to be submitted by 1 August 2012 and was submitted on that date.

The Committee was advised that the Trinity Housing Association equality scheme broadly followed the Commission's model equality scheme. Following negotiations, a number of amendments were made to the scheme and it was re-submitted on 14 November 2012.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Scheme, as recommended.

### **Wesley Housing Association**

This scheme was due to be submitted by 1 August 2012 and was submitted on that date.

The Committee was advised that the Wesley Housing Association equality scheme broadly followed the Commission's model equality scheme. Following negotiations, a number of amendments were made to the scheme and it was re-submitted on 14 November 2012.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Scheme, as recommended.

#### **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business.

#### **5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of next meeting at 11am on **Wednesday 27 February 2013**.